26th December 1953]

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes. Two out of the 18 ration shops (Nos. 79 and 84) run by the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Society, Chevayar, were abolished on 5th July 1953 after due publication of the fact among the card-holders. The financial position of the society was not comfortable and it could not bear the heavy establishment charges for the maintenance of all the ration shops. The card-holders who were drawing rations from these two shops have been attached to the nearest ration shops under the same society."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" സർ, റേഷന് മേടിക്കുന്നവർക്ക് വളരെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുള്ളതുകൊണ്ട് ഈ തിരുമാനം മാററണമെന്നു കാണിച്ചു ഗവൺമെണ്ടിന്നു വല്ല മെമ്മോറാണ്ടവും ചേവായൂരിലെ നാട്ടുകാരിൽനിന്നു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ ?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, some representations were made in this regard and they were considered. The Government thought that it was not necessary to reopen these two shops."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know the number of card-holders that are served by each ration shop after this abolition? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" Is it not a fact that all the producers-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies in Malabar had to reduce the number of such ration shops due to the fact that grains were available in the open market and the number of purchasers had also decreased? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The main difficulty is that these societies were agents for procurement of food-grains in Malabar. After we gave up procurement in Malabar, the societies are not economically sound and they are running into losses. That is why they had to reduce establishment charges and in pursuance of that, we had to abolish some of the ration shops."

Sinking of wells under Rural Water-supply Scheme.

* 265 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the total number of wells sunk by the Government under rural water-supply under the Five-Year Scheme so far up to 31st July 1953?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of wells sunk under the Rural Water-supply Scheme up to 31st July 1953 in the Madras State is 5,737 (five hundred, seven hundred and thirty-seven)."